

1996

Book Reviews

Florida Historical Society
membership@myfloridahistory.org

 Part of the [American Studies Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

Find similar works at: <https://stars.library.ucf.edu/fhq>

University of Central Florida Libraries <http://library.ucf.edu>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by STARS. It has been accepted for inclusion in Florida Historical Quarterly by an authorized editor of STARS. For more information, please contact STARS@ucf.edu.

Recommended Citation

Society, Florida Historical (1996) "Book Reviews," *Florida Historical Quarterly*. Vol. 75 : No. 1 , Article 7.
Available at: <https://stars.library.ucf.edu/fhq/vol75/iss1/7>

BOOK REVIEWS

Spanish Treasure Fleets. By Timothy R. Walton. (Sarasota: Pineapple Press, 1994. xiii, 256 pp. Preface, photographs, maps, illustrations, appendices, glossary of Spanish terms, notes, recommendations for further reading, index. \$24.95 cloth.)

Timothy Walton's fine work emphasizes the worldwide scope of the Spanish colonial maritime trade system and describes this complex organization, including not only ships, their crews and supplies, but also merchants, miners, and metropolitan and colonial governments. He demonstrates how European skill and determination, applied to the extraction of precious metals and the organization of the treasure fleets, led to European domination of much of the world. He points out an early connection with Florida history through the charismatic figure of Pedro Menéndez de Avilés, who not only founded St. Augustine but also laid out the classic format for the operation of the Spanish fleets.

Walton calls this a study about money, and indeed he traces the circulation of some four billion pesos in Spanish silver and gold over three centuries; he follows the evolution of this circulation into modern economic systems, utilizing paper currencies instead of pieces of eight and doubloons. Walton demonstrates the universality of the Spanish system by showing how Thomas Jefferson was the first to recommend that the new United States adapt the weight and purity of the Spanish peso to a decimal currency. In 1815, the last silver-laden galleon left Acapulco for Manila. In 1820, the final ship left Vera Cruz bound for Spain with silver. Walton discloses the later interaction upon the life of Asia of a continuing demand for American silver, a growing market for tea, and the corollary rise of the growth and distribution of opium.

Florida history related in several ways to the Spanish fleets. The very *raison d'être* of the Florida *presidio* was the protection of a key maritime passage— that part of the homebound galleons' route which lay between Florida and the Bahamas. Moreover, Florida's vital Royal subsidy, the *situado*, only came to St. Augustine from the *Tierra Firme* or New Spain treasuries by sea; necessary supplies and reinforcements had to come the same way. Moreover, the effects of the fleet disasters of 1622, 1715, and 1733 were strongly felt in the

Florida colony. Finally, the 18th century European dynastic wars engendered the Spanish-English North American rivalry which ravaged the Georgia coast and led to two sieges of St. Augustine by land and sea. Those wars had dramatic effect upon Spain, no longer a first-class power. The treaties which ended the Seven Years' War dictated that Florida would be British. The acquisition of Minorca by Britain also led to the emigration to Florida of more than 1,000 Minorcans; they have been an important demographic factor here ever since. Spain's resurgence in the years of the American Revolution and the victory of Bernardo de Gálvez at Pensacola helped us gain our independence but returned the Floridas to Spain until 1821, when they were annexed to the United States. During those years of warfare, Spain replaced her regular New Spain and *Tierra Firme* fleets with small squadrons of powerful warships to carry the coin and precious metals. At the end of the 18th century, Spain eased the rigor of long-held navigation laws and opened many ports to freer trade.

Timothy Walton closes his book with an objective analysis of the rediscovery of the Spanish treasure fleets through historical research and the activities of modern treasure salvors. This is an excellent, well-written and tightly organized study of an organism which Timothy Walton judges to have been a general success in protecting its valuable cargoes. Above all, he shows how it prefigured and led to the modern world financial system.

Flagler College

EUGENE LYON

Florida in Poetry: A History of the Imagination. Edited by Jane Anderson Jones and Maurice J. O'Sullivan. (Sarasota: Pineapple Press, 1995. xix, 295 pp. Introduction, prologue, epilogue, glossary, acknowledgments, permissions, index. \$24.95 hardcover.)

Compiling an anthology of poems about a land that has been settled for hundreds of years is no easy task. The editors, both English teachers at Florida colleges, have succeeded and made accessible for the first time in one place 286 poems that trace the history of the literary imagination of this land/territory/state. In choosing among hundreds of poets and thousands of poems, the editors have done a commendable job of including a cross-section of the well-known writers who lived here a long time (Elizabeth Bishop, Donald Justice, James Merrill) or not at all (Oliver Goldsmith, Ol-

iver Wendell Holmes, Walt Whitman); or who were here a very short time, but who wrote either the first poems about the new land (Nicholas Le Challeux) or memorable works about the state (Richard Eberhart) or social commentary (Langston Hughes); or who lived and worked here but wrote about non-Florida subjects (Zora Neale Hurston, James Weldon Johnson).

This work, which dovetails nicely with the non-fiction/fiction collection edited by O'Sullivan and Jack C. Lane, *The Florida Reader* (1991), contains a comprehensive, manageable body of literature that should appeal to both the serious student of Southern literature and the historian interested in Florida's depiction in poetry.

As with much of Florida literature, one may be surprised at just who wrote about the state, for example, the poets associated with other parts of the country (Stephen Vincent Benet, Robert Frost, Sidney Lanier). Another surprise might be learning of writers, better-known for fiction or nonfiction writing, who wrote commendable poems about Florida (Marjory Stoneman Douglas, Stetson Kennedy, Tennessee Williams).

Historians can find new angles for approaching Florida history, whether first European contacts with Native Americans or battles that shaped our destiny or personages that made an impact. What is not surprising is the range of responses to Florida, from disillusion ("Whoever wishes to go to Florida/Let him go where I have been/And return dry and arid/And worn out by rot." [Le Challeux, 1565]) to high praise ("It is a new world/full of charms and comely/with many diverse colors,/a flowered and delightful meadow/with birds of a thousand kinds" [de Flores, 1571]).

Or readers could take one aspect, for example, the mythical Fountain of Youth, and find six different poems with different angles, from the positive ("Having drunk its water a few times,/ bathing their sagging figures,/they lost the ugliness of old age" [de Castellanos, 1589]) to the negative ("But his skin/Had lost no wrinkle, not one liver spot- " [Kennedy, 1994]).

And if our acquaintances and students scoff at poetry ("I never really liked poems when I was in school"), everyone should enjoy the last part: A Florida Bestiary, which brings together poems about gators, birds, manatees, the polar bear at Miami's zoo, even the lowly cockroach. Occasionally we can see what unexpected source inspired a poet, as for example when a newspaper article about the death of the last dusky seaside sparrow led one writer to write about the extinction of another indigenous species: "Tomorrow we can

put it on a stamp,/a first-day cover with Key Largo rat,/Schaus swallowtail, Florida swamp/crocodile, and fading cotton mouse.”

The book is easy to use with its thematic organization, a table of contents that includes the birth and death dates of the poets, the date of the poem in the text, a glossary of literary terms, occasional marginalia, and a useful index.

University of Florida

KEVIN M. MCCARTHY

The Columbia Restaurant Spanish Cookbook. By Adela Hernandez Gonzmart and Ferdie Pacheco. (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1995. xxv, 294 pp. Preface, photographs, glossary, index. \$24.95.)

This book comprises more than a collection of recipes from the kitchens of Tampa's famous Columbia Restaurant and of its "heart," Adela Hernandez Gonzmart. Co-authored by the granddaughter of the Columbia's founder and physician-artist-writer Ferdie Pacheco, the book is a history of the restaurant and a biography of Mrs. Gonzmart as well, more or less in chronological order. The authors have chosen to use two voices throughout: Ferdie's third-person narrative alternates with Adela's first-person account. The text's third component is its collection of interesting recipes, in standard cookbook format at the end of each chapter. These are complemented by photographs of the award-winning restaurant and the family associated with it since its founding, sometimes with Pacheco's humorous captions. Of potential interest not only to those concerned with cooking and restaurants, the book also provides background information on some Spanish wines and especially on the foods and customs of Tampa's latinos. This reviewer was engaged by the detailed information on the proper preparation of the local Cuban-style *café con leche*, and of Tampa's inimitable but misnamed Cuban bread. Provided too is a description of the Christmas Eve suppers of local Cuban, Spanish and Sicilian families in bygone years. Readers can also glean bits of historical background, such as the fact that cigar workers paid five dollars per month for their meals at the Columbia. The family's story is based on personal experience, "the bulk of the book . . . based on the contributions of the proprietors, Casimiro and Lawrence Hernandez, and Adela, Cesar, Richard and Casey Gonzmart" (xxii). Pacheco himself is well-acquainted with the Columbia; he worked as a waiter there in his youth, and his family and that of the propri-

etors have had a friendly relationship for several generations. Much of the material is, of course, anecdotal, and Pacheco acknowledges the many contributions of Columbia restaurant staff and patrons. Several local writers and historians are credited as sources for historical information. As might be expected in a work of this type, the historical and biographical content is presented from a personal and sympathetic point of view.

The text first offers a brief glimpse into the culinary exchange between the Old World and the New as well as a summary of the founding of Ybor City, introductory to telling how in 1905 the first Casimiro Hernandez, Adela's grandfather, established the small cafe which today is Florida's oldest restaurant. His patriotic fervor for the United States inspired him to call his new enterprise the Columbia and to give it the epithet "The Gem of All Spanish Restaurants." The story continues, chronicling the founder, his son (the second Casimiro) and his family, particularly young Adela, and various expansions of the Columbia. Adela's love of music and her study at Juilliard are related, as is her romance and marriage to the late Cesar Gonzmart. The young couple traveled for some time with the latter's band but returned to Tampa, with Cesar eventually managing the Columbia. The family account proceeds to tell of the upbringing and education of the two Gonzmart sons and their rise to the helm of the family enterprise, now several restaurants in Florida. In their narrative the authors describe the involvement of many characters who have worked at the Columbia or have been its patrons. They also present a parade of celebrity diners and performers at the restaurant.

This book is worthwhile for readers interested in this niche of Tampa's history or in its Spanish cooking. It is a good companion volume to Clarita Garcia's *Clarita's Cocina* and, of course, to Ferdie Pacheco's own *Ybor City Chronicles*.

University of Tampa

MARTIN FAVATA

History of Brevard County, Volume 1. By Jerrell H. Shofner. (Viera, FL: Brevard County Historical Commission, 1995. ix, 271 pp. Acknowledgments, foreword, photographs, maps, bibliography, index. \$29.95 hardcover.)

Jerrell H. Shofner's *History of Brevard County* grew from the Brevard County Historical Commission's (BCHC) desire in 1988 to publish a "well-researched, academic history" of Brevard County.

Volume 1 presents the development of Brevard County from its earliest geologic origins to the 1920s. Volume 2 (unpublished) promises to carry the County's history forward to the present.

The book's 14 chapters offer an overview of the county's development. The frequent use of maps, original drawings by artist and anthropologist, Vera Zimmerman, and numerous photographs help readers make their way through Brevard County's complex history. The initial chapters summarize the scant anthropological research on Brevard's pre-Columbian inhabitants and encounter with the Spanish. Shofner's real story begins in the third chapter when Florida became a U.S. Territory. Here, he traces the beginnings of river-front communities along the Indian River under the Armed Occupation Act. He is at his best in describing the period covering the decades from the end of the Civil War to the 1890s.

Shofner's interpretation of Brevard County's history centers on the role that transportation played in the county's development. Initially, river boat transportation provided the link which forged the connection between the north and south ends of the county. Flagler's railroad solidified the process. By 1900, Brevard County stretched 72 miles from the Haulover from the Mosquito Lagoon and southward to the Sebastian Inlet. The Indian River and the railroad provided the foundation for the county's entry into the 20th century.

This book has a number of virtues. It is intelligently conceived, concise, and well-written. Unfortunately, the book possesses important shortcomings. It is an "official," commissioned history. Historians writing such histories must balance their own interests and interpretations against the desires and expectations of those in the commissioning body. This is never an easy thing. This book was written for the Brevard County Historical Commission which consists of 15 members appointed by the Brevard County Commissioners. Between 1988 and 1993 the complexion of the BCHC changed. Many of the original BCHC members had left the commission by the time the author submitted his draft of the manuscript to the BCHC. Moreover, the BCHC decided in 1993 to supplement Shofner's text with photographs which members of the commission selected and captioned. Finally, a book designer was hired to do the book's layout. The book conveys a sense of the shifts in the BCHC's interests and conception of the book.

Shofner attempts to follow a middle course in his *History of Brevard County*. This will irritate many who feel that one part of the

county was ignored or another was over represented. It is unfortunate that this attempt at providing a comprehensive treatment of the county's history is marred by factual errors. Many of these mistakes occur in the captions for the photographs selected and written by members of this Historical Commission. This is unfortunate because these photographs offer an insight into the county's development. Despite these weaknesses, this first volume of the *History of Brevard County* contributes to a clearer understanding of the complex and unique history of this part of East Central Florida's Atlantic Coast.

Florida Institute of Technology

GORDON PATTERSON

A History of Altamonte Springs, Florida. By Jerrell H. Shofner. (Altamonte Springs: City of Altamonte Springs, 1995. xii, 303 pp. Acknowledgments, photographs, maps, notes, bibliography, index. \$29.95.)

For years the Central Florida community of Altamonte Springs was a subtropical Mayberry, North Carolina, complete with parallel situations and counterparts to those in the popular television show. Yet in the 1970s, the settlement-turned-community-turned town became a city and threatened to lose its battle with runaway growth. Professor Shofner has chronicled the story in an engaging narrative and pictorial history.

The area's physical setting, geological history, Indian background, early domination by the Spanish and English and antebellum settlement are succinctly drawn.

Central Florida's climate and inexpensive land induced both Northerners and Southerners to migrate in the post-Civil War decades. There was access by steamboats and sandy roads, but the main impetus to the land boom was supplied by railroads. Dr. Washington Kilmer, of Cincinnati, walked all the way and was the first to settle the area that he named Altamont. Kilmer set out the first orange groves, and was followed by others so that by the mid-1870s there was a loosely defined community. In the 1880s the South Florida Railroad, funded largely by interested Bostonians, linked the area with Jacksonville and the North. Other rail lines were built in the 1880s and later became part of Henry Bradley Plant's system and eventually the Atlantic Coast Line.

Altamonte Springs got its name in early 1887, and owed its founding to the railroad and to the Altamonte Land, Hotel, and

Navigation company whose hotel would remain important through World War II. Various lakes and springs were powerful magnets, as Altamonte Springs became a "Boston Boom Town." Small neighboring settlements rose and fell or were absorbed by others. With settlement came schools and churches. There was always a sizeable black minority. Citrus production was the main agricultural pursuit, although forestry also became important.

From 1901 to 1920, George E. Bates of New Hampshire, was a key figure, primarily through his management of the hotel. The first two decades registered steady prosperity and growth, and conspicuous among town leaders were Joseph M. Lewis, Nathan H. Fogg, and Thomas Sprague. In 1913 Altamonte Springs was detached from Orange County, and became a part of Seminole County, although not without protest. Better roads, telephones, electricity, civic improvements— all evolved with time. Finally, in 1920, Altamonte Springs was incorporated, and Elmer T. Haines was elected as the town's first mayor.

The town prospered in the 1920s but experienced no frenzied boom. Even so, real estate surged. Whites and blacks were limited in their choice of building sites, and the "colored section" was a legally segregated area. The Great Depression hit, but was not devastating to Altamonte Springs which had a population of 300 in 1930. Still, in the 1930s the town was considerably reduced in size, as wealthy citizens, backed by court decisions, were able to remove their property from the tax rolls. Citizens moaned as the town's property valuation dropped to a mere \$230,000 in 1934. But, depression gave way to World War II prosperity and post-war growth. By 1950 the town retained only faint vestiges of "Boston influence." Blacks continued to occupy a second class citizen status, and in 1951 the black section (80 acres) and its citizens withdrew from the town.

A mayor and council system of government was adopted in 1953, the year that the hotel burned. Controversial mayor Lawrence Swofford was defeated in 1959 by a political unknown, but regained his office in 1961 and presided over a period of rapid expansion. Swofford had many critics, but Professor Shofner gives him high marks for keeping growth under control and for his administrative ability. The 1960s and 1970s witnessed the era of proliferating suburbs for Altamonte Springs. Swofford was responsible for a municipal water system and led the way for the adoption of one of the state's first comprehensive zoning plans. Altamonte Springs' growth was explained by nearby military bases, educa-

tional expansion (the University of Central Florida was established in 1968), and Walt Disney World which opened in 1971. Interstate and other highways caused massive traffic jams. The city had 3,000 people in 1967, a 250 percent increase in seven years.

Change came so fast that in 1996, Barney's Bar-B-Q, opened in 1972, was the city's oldest restaurant. Everything was new. Everything was bigger and better: a new city hall, a new hospital, new recreational complexes. By the time Department of Transportation officials put up school traffic signs for one new school, it had already been abandoned. So many new office buildings were constructed that some were given numbers instead of names. A new shopping mall completed in 1974 was so impressive that it became, after Walt Disney World, the second major tourist attraction in Central Florida.

Along the way, strong-willed police captain Norman Floyd defeated Swofford for mayor, ending his long and busy career. Expansion continued. In 1980 the voters adopted a city manager system of government. The mayor was retained and the city commission served in a true legislative capacity. Today Altamonte Springs has 37,000 inhabitants, up from 45 in 1926. Most residents, if asked to explain their city's past, would be reduced to saying that, like Topsy, it grew. Fortunately, they and the readers of this book have Jerrell Shofner to thank for making sense out of a tangled tale, and of doing so with a judicious selection of pictures, a sense of historical selectivity, a skilled writing style, and a sense of humor.

Florida State University

WILLIAM WARREN ROGERS

Flags Along the Coast; Charting the Gulf of Mexico, 1519-1759: A Reappraisal. By Jack Jackson. (Austin, Texas: The Book Club of Texas, 1995. xii, 225 pp. 71 maps. Preface, text, bibliography, index. \$200.00 plus \$15.00 shipping & handling.)

This book is a part of the ongoing study of the cartography of the Gulf of Mexico by Jackson and others. An earlier example is the excellent work by Jack Jackson, Robert S. Weddle and Winston DeVille, *Mapping Texas and the Gulf Coast: The Contributions of Saint-Denis, Oliván and Le Maire.* (College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1990).

Flags Along the Coast is a comprehensive study of the explorers, pilots, scientists, scholars, military officers, and others who drew

maps of the Gulf of Mexico from 1519 to 1764. It probably will not come as a surprise that the early maps and charts prepared by the Spaniards were borrowed extensively by others. Spain tried to keep maps and charts secret from other countries, but by one means or another French, English and Dutch mapmakers managed to secure copies of the early Spanish charts. More often than not, the copies made of the early Spanish maps, or the information borrowed from them even by Spaniards, was not credited to the original mapmakers. Instead, they contained the names of the "borrowers." Jackson has identified a number of these early mapmakers and has traced their maps through the later work of others.

The Spaniards had a significant impact on the cartography of the Gulf Coast during that era. Of course, after La Salle's unsuccessful efforts to establish a settlement on the Texas Coast in 1684-85— he had hoped to do so at the mouth of the Mississippi River—the French and then the English began competing with the Spaniards in exploring and mapping the Gulf Coast.

The book is divided into several parts. Part I concerns the impact of the Enriquez-Barroto/Bisente maps of the Gulf Coast on European cartographers in the early 18th Century. Part II concentrates on the Gulf Coast maps of the French Engineer Valentin Devin. The works and importance of other French mapmakers such as Nicolas de Fer; the Delisles, father and son; Le Maire, La Tour, and others are also discussed. Even the intrusion of Capt. William Bond on the Mississippi River in 1699, the agent of Dr. Daniel Coxe, proprietor of Carolana, and the Coxe map of 1722 are included. *La Florida* and the northern gulf coast (Pensacola and environs) are discussed in some detail. Many of the maps include all of Florida, while some of them concentrate on the Mobile-Pensacola area. Equally significant are the extensive notes which accompany the written text.

This study contains a total of 71 maps. Fifty of them are numbered and printed beginning with Alvarez de Pineda's map of 1519 and ending with Bellin's map of 1764. This makes one think that the title of the book should have been "1519-1764." There are two maps prepared in the 1500's, nine in the 1600's and 39 in the 1700's. The other 21, beginning with Bisente's, "*Mapa de Tierra Firme, Yslas Barlobento*" of 1700, opposite the title page, are included in Parts I and II. The eleven-page bibliography is of particular importance for additional information about maps and mapmakers.

For those interested in the early mapping of the Gulf Coast, this study is a significant contribution. Even if you cannot afford the volume, certainly your library should be encouraged to obtain a copy.

University of West Florida, Emeritus

WILLIAM S. COKER

Tidecraft: The Boats of South Carolina, Georgia and Northeastern Florida, 1550-1950. By William C. Fleetwood, Jr. (Tybee Island, GA: WGM Marine Press, 1995. vii, 356 pp. Foreword, acknowledgments, introduction, photographs, maps, notes, bibliography, index. \$47.50 hardcover.)

The author's nickname is "Rusty," but there's nothing rusty about this book, except possibly many of the old-time boats he describes, dating back to the 16th century. He is a boatbuilder himself and comes from a family of bar pilots. Persons not accustomed to buying books lately may get sticker-shock at that sporty price tag, but history lovers should not let that scare them away. This coffee table model is filled with interesting sidelights and sidebars that are packed with history tidbits, much of it beamed to residents of Florida.

From Indian dugouts of ancient days to yachts of the rich and famous of modern times, Fleetwood covers the waterfront. Perhaps he tells we landlubbers more about boats than we want to know, but it's worthwhile reading just the same. For example, page one of the volume relates that, in 1986, divers at DeLeon Springs, inland from Daytona, discovered an ancient dugout canoe, subsequently determined to be about 5,000 years old. On the last page of the main text, the author concludes, "If knowing where you've been is the first step in knowing where you're going, then we've made a start." Sail on!

There is also information on native Americans, who are described as the last active Indian dugout makers and users east of the Mississippi, building the craft at least through 1950, using bald cypress almost exclusively. William Bartram, who visited the Seminoles in the Everglades, noted "These Indians have large handsome canoes, which they form out of the trunks of Cypress trees, some of them commodious enough for twenty or thirty warriors. . . ."

The word Seminole, we learn, means "outlanders" or "separatists." "They were the last holdouts against the U.S. government's In-

dian 'removal' plan. Their descendants still live in the 'Glades despite all earlier efforts of the government to remove them.'" After traveling to the Seminole trading post of Tallahassee (Talahasochte), Bartram reported the Seminoles were not always swamp dwellers.

The book is profusely illustrated with old maritime maps, excellent drawings of early vessels, including precise working plans—and an entire section of prized photographs! The chapter on "Steam and the River Trade 1800-1860" is of especial interest to Florida historians, since this was a romantic period in our past. The author verifies that "Florida's St. Johns (River) was an anomaly. It was the only major river in the country that flowed northward, and had no rapids or rocky shoals. . . ."

Most writers, in recounting great "Florida" hurricanes of the past, mention only the "Big Ones" of 1935, 1928, 1926 and 1921 or "The Gale of '48" (1848). But Fleetwood goes back even farther: "In September 1804 a fast and severe hurricane devastated the eastern Caribbean and moved up the Florida coast, lashing Georgia and the Carolinas on the 7th before moving north to cause destruction in New England. . . ."

During the Civil War, a southern shipwright had to be prudent about those for whom he built warships. We learn that Savannah shipwright H. F. Willink, Jr. was arrested for court-martial, after the city's capture. His "crime?" He had built the ironclads *Savannah* and *Milledgeville*, as well as a gunboat and torpedo boats, for the Confederacy.

In a state where live oak and yellow pine thrive, Floridians will be pleased to know that "tough gnarly live oak and straight-grained yellow pine are two of the finest woods in the world for ship-building" and: "golden and resinous, longleaf yellow pine has long been a wood sought by knowledgeable shipwrights. . . ."

Included in the latter part of the book is an old folk tale about the mullet—fish or fowl? The tale goes, "an unusual fish, mullet have a crop and gizzard like a chicken. . . . Several central Florida crackers escaped a 'fishing out of season fine' when a crafty defense lawyer, dissecting a mullet in court to exhibit the gizzard, convinced the judge to rule the mullet a fowl and not a fish." Reputable newspaper columnists Paul Wilder of *The Tampa Tribune* and Malcolm B. Johnson of the *Tallahassee Democrat* (both now deceased) vowed the "tale" is true. The lawyer involved was the late Pat Whitaker of Tampa, who also is deceased.

Writing Out My Heart: Selections from the Journal of Frances E. Willard, 1855-96. Edited by Carolyn De Swarte Gifford. (Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1995. xxi, 474 pp. Preface, acknowledgments, editorial method, general introduction, essay on source, bibliography, index. \$29.95.)

Frances E. Willard was an internationally-recognized leader of temperance and women's rights reforms in the 19th century who served as president of the National Women's Christian Temperance Union from 1879 until her death in 1898. For over two decades her books, articles and speeches shaped public opinion in the United States and abroad. In 1982, 49 volumes of Willard's journal, missing for 50 years, were discovered. These volumes, written from Willard's 16th through her 31st years and during her 44th and 57th years, provide the material for this study. The journal entries, which are remarkably frank, reveal much about Willard's inner life, the development of her character and why she came to be a reformer and a feminist.

Carolyn Gifford, an associated editor of *The Historical Encyclopedia of Chicago Women*, transcribed and edited the over 8,000 pages of Willard's journal. She then selected and organized the journal entries included in this edition and wrote informative, insightful introductions to the study as a whole and to each of the six parts of the book. The editor notes that although less than a tenth of the total journal material is included, care "has been taken in both the selection process and introductions to present the main themes that run through the journal . . . and to give readers a clear sense of the chronological unfolding of the events. . . ."

The journal entries are organized into six parts: the first five cover the years 1859-1870. During this period, one of self-searching, Willard was a student, then a teacher, and, for two years, a world traveler. The sixth part includes entries from the years 1893 and 1896 when Willard, by then a national and world leader of reform, worried over organizational issues, her own ill health, and the loss of her beloved mother. The themes that run through the journal include Willard's continuing efforts to develop her character which she defined as being strong, steadfast, genuine, good and true and the importance to her of the friendship of women, of strong religious faith, and of home and family (for her, a family included a family of women).

In her journal Willard wrote about both her "outside" and "inside" life: what happened to her and how she understood and interpreted what happened. She referred to "writing out her heart" and some of her entries are deeply emotional. She struggles, for example, with her passionate attachment to the young woman who would become her brother's wife, with the ending of her engagement to a young man despite the objections of her family, and with her recognition that her natural love was for women not men. The entries reveal her growing ambitions and emerging concern for the rights of women. By her 31st birthday, Willard felt prepared to begin her serious life's work and recorded her intention to bid adieu to her journal and "to write no more wishy-washy pages of personal reminiscence." While she wrote much for public consumption in subsequent years, not until 1893 did she once again keep a journal. The entries in 1893 and 1896 are briefer and deal primarily with her "outer" life.

The journal entries vary in style and in substance, but overall they comprise a fascinating story of an extraordinary and strong-willed woman's formative years. This work will be of interest to general readers and to historians, particularly those studying women's history. The usefulness for the scholar is increased by the editor's identifications, insofar as possible, of persons and of biblical and literary allusions mentioned in the entries as well as by the essay on the source and the comprehensive bibliography.

Jacksonville University

JOAN S. CARVER

The Inner Jefferson: Portrait of a Grieving Optimist. By Andrew Burstein. (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1995. xx, 334 pp. Preface, introduction, chronology, illustrations, notes, index. \$29.95 hardcover.)

Andrew Burstein provides an interesting and thoughtful tracing of Jefferson's thought in the intellectual history tradition of searching for the roots of one man's thoughts in the writings of other thinkers who influenced him. To the surprise of anyone familiar with the influence of John Locke, Baron de Montesquieu and other philosophers of the Enlightenment on Jefferson, Burstein depicts a Jefferson influenced to an extraordinary extent by the thought and sentimentality in James Macpherson's *Poems of Ossian*

and the novels and sermons of Laurence Sterne. In this emphasis, Burstein attempted throughout the book to trace the “heart” in constant conflict with the “head”, or passion and sentimentality in contest with empirical and rational analysis, which latter most often dominated in Jefferson’s mind. In fact this is the real thematic context of the book. Jefferson as a “grieving optimist” is more just title than thesis. Grieving optimism is an eight-page section devoted to grief over loss of family and friends in an era of short life expectancy. Jefferson did remain an optimist about the future of the country as long as his definitions and goals for the republic were steadfastly maintained.

Andrew Burstein is a businessman and long-term student of Jefferson who chose a second career as an independent historian. He set his course to recreate the inner Jefferson by chief reliance on over 18,000 letters Jefferson wrote. The letters allow the author to place Jefferson in his 18th century context, the context of a “typographical culture” wherein men of distinction paid close attention to the written word, not just what was written but the way it was written. Letter writing was not just a personal form, but a social form and “a political necessity.” It also afforded Jefferson emotional release and “creative experiments of the mind” not afforded by the spoken word. Insights into the history of letter writing when vast distances separated friends provide one of the more important contributions of this book.

In the attempt to recreate the inner Jefferson within what historians of another period would call his “climate of opinion,” Burstein rejects all revisionism. This is most clearly revealed in his rejection of the Sally Hemings story, Fawn M. Brodie’s 1974 study about Jefferson fathering the children of a slave. While revealing Jefferson’s passions and sexuality, Burstein suggests that giving oneself to a woman was like giving oneself to God, and thinks that Jefferson could not do so because it would be out of character! Obviously, Burstein has not provided a final word on the Sally Hemings story.

Rejection of that nefarious word, revisionism, involved a rejection of tools and insights from 19th- and 20th-century psychology for exploring the inner Jefferson. Even though the 18th century man may not have been overly introspective in searching his inner psyche, this is actually what the author is trying to do in exploring Jefferson’s emotional life. After all, Burstein had many thousands more documents to use than did Sigmund Freud when he analyzed Leonardo da Vinci.

Although this book had many strengths, perhaps its chief weakness lies in the fact that the public Jefferson is little revealed by the private person. No revelations intertwine or reveal Jefferson's inner thoughts to his most famous writings, such as the Bill Establishing Religious Freedom or the Declaration of Independence. Florida is not mentioned and the Louisiana Purchase, so intimately involving Florida, is only glancingly mentioned to depict a small difference of opinion between Jefferson, James Madison and James Monroe, which hardly disturbed their friendship. This example displays how little of the public Jefferson is revealed in the book. Just about the only times when Jefferson's inner thoughts are related to his public life involve those outside his circle of friends, such as Aaron Burr, Alexander Hamilton and John Marshall. Only in the last few pages does the author bring the private Jefferson's use of words into the public, political realm to illuminate him as governor, foreign minister, secretary of state, vice president and president.

Any book can be subjected to minor criticisms, and this one is no exception. A certain amount of rambling and redundancy occurs and there are sufficient convoluted sentences based upon abundant subordinate clauses to make for obtuseness. Chapter sizes range from 25 to 50 pages. Although notes for each chapter are copious, no bibliography is offered. However, this book is very profitable reading, especially for anyone who wishes to know everything about one of our most fascinating Americans.

Largo, FL

ERNEST F. DIBBLE

Robert E. Lee, A Biography. By Emory M. Thomas. (New York: W. W. Norton & Co., 1995. Preface, foreword, notes, bibliography, index. \$30.00 hardcover.)

It has been sixty years since the last major, full-scale biography of General Robert E. Lee appeared. Historians have long felt the need for a new, thoroughly researched, thoughtfully presented, and well-written study of this enigmatic and charismatic man. The wait has been worth it.

Robert E. Lee, by Emory Thomas, is the product of a mature scholar, at the peak of his career. The author has already produced several major works on the history of the Confederacy. He makes full use of the perspective gained in those writings to compose a very thoughtful biography of the man who has come to symbolize

the "Lost Cause." Furthermore, Thomas has thoroughly researched all available primary and secondary sources concerning Lee's life, and has carefully analyzed them, to produce the most balanced and scholarly work ever written about the general.

One of the real strengths of this work is the fact that the author understands that the true focus of a biography should be the person about whom one is writing. If the reader wants a study of Lee's Civil War battles, he is likely to be disappointed, for while they are covered, the focus never departs from the central theme of the man himself.

The author gives the reader a thorough understanding of Lee's prominent family and of his dysfunctional childhood, which saw his famous father go bankrupt and into exile, leaving young Robert to be raised by his mother.

He then traces Lee's life in the army from West Point to the outbreak of the Civil War, emphasizing that he was a first-rate engineer, a good family man, and a sterling gentleman (who very much liked the presence of ladies and greatly disliked confrontation). This portion of the book really brings Lee to life as a flesh and blood person, who had long separations from his family, a wife who was often difficult to deal with, and a constant worry that he would end up bankrupt and disgraced like his beloved father.

The outbreak of the Civil War was wrenching for Lee and Thomas thoroughly discusses his decision to go with his state. The author makes one understand that Lee's decision was very much a 19th century one that is difficult for modern military officers to understand.

The coverage of the war years is thorough, but always focused upon the man, not the general. Thomas argues that Lee disliked confrontation with his subordinates or superiors, was highly aggressive, often to the point of endangering his troops, and earned the love of his men by his austere life style and charismatic personality. For example, he rarely took leave (even though often near to his home in Richmond), slept in a tent, and ate abstemiously.

Thomas also explores Lee's growing health problems during the struggle, pointing out that he almost certainly was suffering from increasingly serious cardiovascular disease. Indeed, he probably suffered at least one heart attack during the war.

Finally, the author discusses Lee's postwar life as President of Washington College. This was basically his third career (the other two being engineer and general), and he did well at it. The final chapter, "I will give that sum" ranks with the work of Thomas's

mentor Frank Vandiver's *Mighty Stonewall*, in eloquently portraying the last days of a great leader.

This book is outstanding history and literature and must be read by all who are interested in the life of Robert E. Lee. This book epitomizes what biography ought to be. It is one of the finest historical works of this decade.

University of South Alabama

W. ROBERT HOUSTON

Troubled Waters: Champion International and the Pigeon River Controversy. By Richard A. Bartlett. (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1995. xxvi, 348 pp. Preface, acknowledgments, photographs, map, notes, bibliography, index. \$35.00 cloth, \$17.95 paper.)

"We have met the enemy," Walt Kelly's famous 'possum "Pago" once observed as he looked at his polluted swamp, "and he is us." In few places is this more true than in our relationship with the paper industry, for America's nearly insatiable demand for the products paper mills produce has led to some classic cases of environmental desecration. In *Troubled Waters*, Richard A. Bartlett has given us a thoughtful, fascinating, though not altogether unbiased look at the complexities that surround one of the worst examples of pollution, taken from an industry where bad examples are far too common. No matter which side of the controversy one supports, this is a book that should be read.

Although the Champion International Corporation's facility at Canton, North Carolina is the subject of this study, the issues explored are not limited to that locality. In the United States there are over 600 similar mills— all but seven states have at least one. When these industries first arrived on the scene they were almost always welcomed. Setting up in rural, economically depressed areas, the companies offered employment opportunities for people who might otherwise have become part of this century's migration from the countryside to the cities. Though the paper industries were expected to foul the air and discolor the streams, they also promised to stabilize communities, increase land values, and give a shot in the arm to local businesses. For many, the exchange seemed fair enough.

But if history teaches us anything, it teaches that over time things change. Change, and the resistance to it, is what this book is about. As this nation became more environmentally aware, conservation groups became more activist in their efforts to stop pollution and clean up the damage it caused. And since "aesthetic environmentalism" was the most popular aspect of the movement, paper mills were an obvious target. Efforts to make the landscape more attractive and the air smell better led to a more careful consideration of unseen pollution, toxins that posed dangers few had earlier imagined. As evidence of these dangers grew, more people became concerned, and thus the battle was joined.

The Champion mill had been polluting the Pigeon River in western North Carolina for some seven decades when the crusade to clean up the stream began. Although there had been earlier protests and some progress, the river was still unable to support aquatic life when local residents formed the Pigeon River Action Group and went to work. Key support came from Cooke County, downstream from the plant, and by 1986, Champion faced a strong grass roots movement that was drawing support from national and international environmental groups. The result was a clash of interests and values that go to the very heart of the environmental conflicts that are being felt in communities throughout the nation. As thoughtful readers will quickly realize, one does not have to have a paper mill in the neighborhood to be concerned over the future of one's environment.

The book does not have a happy ending for either side, for despite legislation and litigation, many matters remain unresolved. Champion claims to be cleaning up, but environmental groups are considering a return to the courts. Nevertheless, by carefully cataloging the issues, explaining the tactics used by those involved, and (despite his admitted bias) giving all arguments a fair hearing, Richard A. Bartlett has provided readers an excellent case study of environmental activism and the opposition to it. *Troubled Waters* also reminds those of us who have biases of our own just how complex, and how important, cleaning up the environment is.

Jacksonville State University

HARVEY H. JACKSON III

John Muir: Apostle Of Nature. By Thurman Wilkins. *The Oklahoma Western Biographies.* Edited by Richard W. Etulain. (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1995.302 pp. Series editor's preface, preface, prologue, epilogue, illustrations, maps, bibliography. \$24.95.)

When I visited with Savoie Lottinville, then Director of the University of Oklahoma Press, probably sometime in 1965, he had with him Thurman Wilkins' manuscript of *Thomas Moran: Artist of the Mountains*. "It is the cleanest manuscript I've ever seen," Lottinville informed me. "It needs no editing. We are sending it directly to the printer." I was deeply impressed, but hardly surprised. I had read Wilkins' biography of Clarence King, and was already convinced that anything Professor Wilkins wrote would be of highest quality. Of course I jumped at the opportunity to review his latest book, and I have not been disappointed.

Professor Wilkins had a real challenge in writing a biography of John Muir, for Muir was a complex, brilliant, eccentric, incredibly active individual. He was an inventor, founder of the Sierra Club, father of the preservationist branch of conservationism, defender of Yosemite and leader in the fight against the Hetch Hetchy development; a prolific nature writer, botanist, glacialist, orchardist, and traveler. He knew on a first name basis many leading scientists of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and more than a few of that era's politicians, including Theodore Roosevelt. Such a complex man as was Muir poses difficult problems for his biographers.

Professor Wilkins writes that Frederick Turner's *Rediscovering America: John Muir in His Time and Ours* (1985) is "in some respects the finest life of Muir yet published" (279). Turner admittedly used inference, surmise, and intuition to put flesh and blood and meaning into Muir's life.

Professor Wilkins has chosen a different approach. His narration— after an excellent prologue setting the historical stage for Muir's activities and ending with an epilogue summing up Muir's life, philosophy and achievements— follows chronologically from his subject's birth to death.

Certainly this technique has the advantage of making this biography perhaps the most useful available for quick reference to Muir's activities. The reader follows the naturalist's life as if walking along a plain, or possibly, as one climbs a smooth incline. Each year brings new experiences. We read of Muir's walk down the Appalachians, of his exploration of the big tree groves of California, of his

fascination with glaciation, and of his journeys to Alaska. We are fascinated at his poor mountaineering (he rarely carried sufficient provisions, went hungry, suffered from thirst, frostbit his feet, was often overtaken by nightfall, and fell from cliffs). We read of his writing and publishing. He was an idealist, something of a mystic, and yet he was a good businessman. Glimpses of his private life intrigue us: how he liked being mothered; his home life. A minor criticism here is that the chronological approach does not emphasize high and low points in Muir's life.

Although this biography is less than 300 pages long, it is incredibly thorough, well organized, and above all, well written. It is also, in this era of the new robber barons, extremely timely. As Wilkins writes, recent reassessment of Muir's life and work "places him at the very cutting edge of present-day environmentalism, his concept of wilderness exerting as much vitality today as when he lived and worked" (xiv). This opportune biography, written to Wilkins' high standards of research and writing, has done justice to his remarkable subject.

Florida State University Emeritus

RICHARD A. BARTLETT

Crusading for Chemistry: The Professional Career of Charles Holmes Herty.

By Germaine E. Reed. (Athens, GA: The University of Georgia Press, 1995. \$45.00 cloth.)

Charles Holmes Herty is a name familiar to historians of the South. Most know something of his work in the naval stores industry and his efforts to prove that cheap, fast-growing southern yellow pine could be used as an acceptable substitute for Canadian spruce in the manufacture of newsprint and white paper. But as Reed has written, "the complete story of Herty's contributions and significance to American chemistry, the American chemical industry, and the economic future of his nation and his native region appears nowhere in the brief published accounts of his life and work."

Relying on the Charles Holmes Herty Papers at Emory University, Professor Reed has produced the first book-length study of one of the most important men of the 20th century American South. In this well-researched and clearly-written monograph Reed guides her readers through Herty's early days in a poorly equipped laboratory and classroom at the University of Georgia to a palatial suite in a New

York City office tower, from the isolated pine forests of North Florida and South Georgia, and from the halls of the University of North Carolina to serving on presidential advisory committees. Reed clearly places Herty in his proper place as one of the leading figures in the economic and industrial development of the "New South."

Born in Milledgeville, Georgia in 1867, Charles Herty was educated as a chemist at the University of Georgia and the John Hopkins University where he received his Ph.D. in chemistry. Herty's professional career was varied, and during his life he served as a university professor, government expert, journal editor, trade association president, industrial consultant, and director of a research laboratory.

Herty's "formative years" from 1890-1916, were devoted to academe and the naval stores industry. He began his teaching career at the University of Georgia in the fall of 1890. During his stay in Athens, Herty married, had two children, and began his research on the naval stores industry. It was also during this time that he developed the "Herty" cup-and-gutter system which revolutionized the industry.

Herty remained at the University of Georgia until November 1901 when Gifford Pinchot asked him to join the Bureau of Forestry. Underpaid and frustrated over limited research facilities and the lack of promotion opportunities, Herty accepted the offer. Herty spent two years in the United States Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Forestry, improving upon the cup-and-gutter system, and winning international acclaim at the same time.

Herty returned to academe in 1905 when he took a position in the chemistry department at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. During this stay at Chapel Hill, which lasted until 1916, Herty served as head of the chemistry department (1905-16), dean of the School of Applied Science (1908-11), and a close advisor of the university president on issues ranging from student and faculty recruitment, promotion, curricular reform, and student discipline.

Professor Reed is at her best when tracing Herty's professional career outside of academe and the two years he spent in the United States Department of Agriculture. After he left the University of North Carolina Herty served two terms as president of the American Chemical Society (1915-16), and five years as editor of its *Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry* (1917-21), using both, as Reed contends, "as a bully pulpit to preach chemistry, and to promote his conviction that cooperation by business, government, and academe was essential to the nation's health, security, and material welfare."

In the last two decades of his life, Herty played a vital role in the establishment of a domestic coal-tar chemical industry, carefully organized campaigns to secure dyes protection, and a National Institute of Health. Finally, in 1932, in what he regarded as his most important contribution to southern economic development, he established a pulp and paper laboratory at Savannah, Georgia, to prove that southern yellow pine could replace Canadian spruce in the manufacture of newsprint and white paper. Herty's research led to the construction of the South's first newsprint plant in Lufkin, Texas in 1938.

Students of economic and industrial southern history will welcome *Crusading for Chemistry*. The concise narrative is strong, extensively researched, well written, and contributes to our understanding of the modernization and economic development of the American South.

West Virginia University

JEFFREY A. DROBNEY

The Politics of Rage: George Wallace, The Origins of the New Conservatism, and the Transformation of American Politics. By Dan T. Carter. (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1995. 572 pp. Preface, notes, bibliography, acknowledgments, index. \$30.00 hardcover.)

In this comprehensive work, Dan T. Carter captures the essence of George Wallace and the enormous changes he wrought in late 20th century American politics. Described by the author as "the most influential loser" of this century (468), the five-term Alabama governor and four-time presidential candidate emerges from these pages as a ruthlessly ambitious figure, who combines "racial fear, anticommunism, cultural nostalgia, and traditional right-wing economics" to appeal to disaffected white voters (12). Wallace's ability to capitalize on such issues, especially in the South, Carter argues, dictated Richard Nixon's southern strategy in 1968 and ultimately paved the way for the Religious Right.

The first three chapters focus on Wallace's background and early political career, and Carter emphasizes the "normal compass of ambition" that seemed to direct Wallace's every move. During his years at the University of Alabama and in the Air Force during World War II, the Alabamian constantly made known his political aspirations; after the war, he leapt into politics at age 26 in a suc-

cessful campaign for the legislature. Governor "Big Jim" Folsom dominated Alabama politics during this era, and Wallace the legislator cast himself in the populist image of this political giant. The energetic Wallace travelled and politicked relentlessly (while virtually ignoring his wife Lurleen and their young children) and in 1954 helped coordinate Folsom's successful re-election. After Folsom lost favor with voters over his passive acceptance of the *Brown* decision in 1958 Wallace made his first run for governor. Losing because of his own apparent softness on the race issue, Wallace vowed that no opponent would ever "out-nigger" him again. (Contrary to Wallace's official biographer, Carter insists Wallace did make the infamous statement.) In his 1962 gubernatorial bid, Wallace took a lesson from his defeat and fell "down a dark hole of the bleakest demagoguery" (109). Railing against "communistic amalgamation" and championing "segregation forever," he surpassed all opponents to win the governorship (108).

After a detailed description of Governor Wallace's stand in the schoolhouse door at the University of Alabama in 1963, Carter places Wallace's career within the larger context of the civil rights struggle and national political developments during the 1960s and 1970s. In tracing the tragedies and triumphs of the civil rights movement during Wallace's governorship— from the violence in Birmingham to the march to Selma— Carter argues that Wallace consistently encouraged violent extremists like the National States Rights Party and the Ku Klux Klan in order to lend credence to his claim that integration would lead to public disorder. While Wallace's intransigence and repeated episodes of violence in Alabama only hastened the legislative success of civil rights activists, the governor's defiant spirit endeared him to many southern whites and made him a viable presidential candidate. His popularity terrified Richard Nixon, who in both the 1968 and 1972 campaigns, according to Carter, repeatedly adjusted his message to make himself appealing to the same conservative voters whom Wallace attracted. Carter further details Nixon's obsession with Wallace: how the President contributed \$400,000 to Wallace's 1970 gubernatorial opponent in an unsuccessful effort to defeat his nemesis, how Nixon ordered an IRS investigation of Wallace's brother, and how in 1972 the Republican contemplated tampering with evidence to make political hay of Arthur Bremer's attempted assassination of Wallace. (Nixon wanted to plant George McGovern campaign litera-

ture in Bremer's apartment, but the President's men failed to act before the FBI sealed the room and posted a guard.)

In a brief epilogue on Wallace's legacy, Carter concludes that the Alabamian's attacks on the federal government, as well as his angry rhetoric, have become staples of modern conservatism. Moreover, the author masterfully links the Alabama governor to the Religious Right by describing his 1974 visit to Jerry Falwell's Liberty Road Baptist Church, where the wheelchair-bound governor earned a rousing ovation after giving his personal testimony. This entire book is characterized by a keen perceptiveness of the larger historical significance of episodes such as this one, and Carter's exhaustive research and wonderful writing make this both a first-rate piece of scholarship and a delightful read. Winner of the Bancroft Prize, *The Politics of Rage* is a rare and significant work that will shape historical interpretation for years to come.

Rhodes College

TIMOTHY S. HUEBNER

From Demagogue to Dixiecrat: Horace Wilkinson and the Politics of Race.

By Glenn Feldman. (Landham, MD: University Press of America, 1955. xviii, 311 pp. Preface, introduction, notes, bibliography, index. \$32.50 paper, \$49.00 cloth.)

Where's the folklore, the mythmaking, and the mass appeal? Where's the backslapping, the glad handing, and the storytelling? Where's the backwoods stumping, the whipped-up rhetoric, and the buffoonery? Where are the colorful monikers, the folksy manners, and the barbecues? Where's the bourbon, please?

Wait! Here's the beef. The term demagogue loses its regional meaning when attached to the likes of Horace Wilkinson, as Glenn Feldman has done in *From Demagogue to Dixiecrat*.

A Birmingham native, Wilkinson never held a state or national elective office; yet he occupied a central position in Alabama politics during the heyday of Jim Crow. As an assistant attorney general and a circuit judge, Wilkinson piloted a legal campaign against vigilantism in the early 1920s. This, Feldman says, made Wilkinson a progressive. But after finding civil religion in Klan-controlled Birmingham, the progressive turned political opportunist. He joined the Klan, defended vigilantes, and aligned with Klan Senator James Thomas "Tom Tom" Heflin.

His machinations, indeed, went beyond the courtroom. By Feldman's account, Wilkinson led the Alabama Democrats' bolt against the "papist" presidential candidate Al Smith in 1928. During the 1930s Wilkinson became Birmingham's chief dispenser of New Deal patronage. Throughout, he championed poor and working-class whites against the powerful "Big Mule"/Black Belt interests. But by the time of the 1948 Truman civil rights platform, he had assumed the role of race and Red baiter to boost sagging political opportunities. He joined forces with the Big Mule industrialists—creating a human bridge of white solidarity between his working-class constituency and its traditional adversary—and helped lead the Dixiecrat movement. He spent the twilight of his life until his death in 1957 ensnared in Baptist church politics.

Wilkinson was never a luminary in the public consciousness like many of his better-known compatriots. As Feldman points out, he was a behind-the-scenes operator, the consummate party worker who manipulated politics at the structural level and peddled influence through "agents." Still, Feldman grants Wilkinson demagogue status, arguing that his political career "offers the rare opportunity to examine the workings of demagoguery at a vitally significant structural . . . level" (ix). But neither Wilkinson's political maneuverings nor his persona conform (not in Feldman's portrayal of the man, anyway) to the conventional understanding of the southern demagogue. Feldman's Wilkinson is a one-dimensional politico with no personality, no depth, no luster, no homely virtues.

Political savvy and racism alone do not make a demagogue. Every self-respecting scholar of the subject has cautioned against a too liberal use of the term demagogue. (Incredibly, Feldman overlooked completely Ray Arsenault's important work on demagoguery.) If Feldman has not confused power brokerage and political bossism with demagoguery, he has expanded the definition to the point of distortion. A power-broker/city-boss angle perhaps would have served Feldman better since both conventions are normally associated with Yankeeedom.

Other problems arise. Feldman deploys questionable props that exalt his subject artificially. He makes Wilkinson the demagogue exemplar, suggesting that he steered the career of "Tom Tom" Heflin by exercising "an undue amount of influence over the older demagogue" (99). Feldman maintains that a passel of Alabama politicians fell under the tutelage of Wilkinson, but the author never details a single mentor-disciple relationship; nor does he

explain how one alleged disciple, Bull Conner, could be both student and lifelong Wilkinson antagonist. Finally, with words like “brilliant,” “courageous,” and “politician extraordinaire” describing Wilkinson, Feldman pens his story perilously close to hagiography.

So what can the reader learn from this arid chronicle of Wilkinson’s political life? According to Feldman, Wilkinson has “taught us” that a politician of Wilkinson’s stripe can be both a racist and opportunist (this is new information?) and that Wilkinson’s brand of racism “is not completely rational” (again, this is new?) (199).

In the final sum, one wonders whether Horace Wilkinson’s political career is worthy of a book-length study. But since that question is irrelevant in the post-publication period, one should ask whether *From Demagogue to Dixiecrat* can justify the time needed to read it? Bourbon, anyone?

Eckerd College

JACK E. DAVIS

Reading, Writing, and Race: The Desegregation of the Charlotte Schools. By Davison M. Douglas. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1995. Acknowledgments, introduction, photographs, notes, bibliography, index. \$15.95 paperback, \$39.95 hardcover.)

Personal events often inspire the selection of research topics by scholars. Davison Douglas attended Charlotte-Mecklenburg schools from 1962 to 1974 and thus witnessed much of the desegregation controversy. However, he chose Charlotte as a case study of school busing to achieve integration for other reasons as well. First, Charlotte provides a good example of the “moderate” response to the 1954 *Brown* decision in the South. The city was among the earliest to desegregate public facilities and to admit African American students to white schools. Second, because of the 1971 *Swann v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education* decision mandating a massive busing plan, the city was thrust into the center of the national debate over busing. Third, desegregation there has been among the most successful in limiting “white flight” and in raising test scores. Busing also won a rare degree of public acceptance in Charlotte.

Noting that “education has functioned as perhaps the most critical arena in which the struggle for racial equality has taken place,” (2), Douglas uses school desegregation as the prism for

studying larger issues of the civil rights era. He examines the dynamics of southern moderation; the relative roles of the courts, black activism, and elective branches of government; the factors motivating white actions for desegregation; and the forces for success in Charlotte, which illumines the potential for busing to achieve educational equality.

According to Douglas, moderation in both the city and the state had multiple roots. A primary cause was political domination by “a business and financial elite committed to economic advancement and the avoidance of racial strife” (41). North Carolina politicians were more likely to be lawyers than planters from black-belt areas; thus they were less obsessed with racial domination and more aware of the possibilities for judicial intervention. In addition they were able to see that moderation was an effective tool to avoid significant change. Although among the first to admit African Americans to white schools, by 1964 North Carolina had less school integration than states that engaged in massive resistance.

The primary focus for school desegregation varied according to the time period. Up to the *Brown* decision the courts were the major agents of change, but then lapsed into a decade of restraint. Two lawsuits in Charlotte in 1961 and 1965 were unsuccessful. Throughout the South meaningful desegregation did not come until after the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which was largely the result of black activism. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, however, litigation once again forced the issue in Charlotte because of the persistence of Judge James McMillan. Accepting the argument that self-interest rather than morality motivates most white support for black rights, Douglas calls desegregation of Charlotte’s schools the result of a “convergence of forces: the persistence of a few African American leaders unwilling to compromise in the face of perceived injustice, the emergence of a group of citizens who understood that continued recalcitrance undermined community interest, and the perseverance of a judge who remained steadfast in his interpretation of constitutional requirements” (243).

Charlotte’s success demonstrates why other school systems have failed. A key component of victory was the vast size of the school district, which gave whites fewer places to flee. Separate suburban school districts in many cities increased white flight. Charlotte was also blessed with an extraordinary degree of parental participation in the schools. Additionally, the city coordinated its public housing and school desegregation policies—scattering new

public housing. Those living in integrated residential areas were rewarded by allowing their children to attend neighborhood schools. The result increased educational opportunities for African Americans and boosted economic growth for the city. This fine study is a welcome antidote to the pessimism that greets most mechanisms to promote racial equality in the 1990s.

North Carolina State University

LINDA O. MCMURRY

The Separate City: Black Communities in the Urban South, 1940-1968. By Christopher Silver and John V. Moeser. (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1995. vii, 220 pp. Preface, maps, tables, figures, notes, bibliography, index. \$29.95.)

The scholarly literature on the nature and evolution of black life in urban America has grown by leaps and bounds in recent decades. In their collective attempt to understand the complexities of race, class, and geography in 20th-century America, historians, sociologists, and other social scientists have produced scores of carefully-rendered community studies. Unfortunately, despite its richness, this literature suffers from a preoccupation with the Northern "ghetto" experience. Sadly, we know much less about African Americans in Birmingham and Savannah than about their counterparts in Chicago and New York. Redressing this regional imbalance will require dozens of additional monographs, but Christopher Silver and John V. Moeser's insightful interdisciplinary exploration of black life in three Southern cities—Atlanta, Richmond, and Memphis—represents an important first step in the process of reconfiguring the field of urban black studies.

Silver and Moeser focus on the changing nature of Southern cities during the three decades following the Great Depression. From the beginning of the Second World War to the late 1960s black Southerners witnessed profound transformations in the social and spatial structure of their communities, the character and implications of racial segregation and discrimination, and the nature of political and legal institutions. While the authors take great pains to point out the unique or distinctive aspects of Atlanta, Richmond, and Memphis, they nonetheless insist that all three communities experienced the creation and maturation of a "separate city" during these years. Even though these were the declining years of

de jure segregation, in many ways the urban black experience in the South became increasingly separate from that of whites after 1940. Forced to deal with wrenching changes in the overall structure of urban life—urban renewal, school desegregation, the construction of expressways, the proliferation of suburbs, and so on—black Southerners often turned inward in an attempt to create viable social and political institutions. In each city, this “ghettoization” process brought an increase in African-American political power and a measure of communal hope and racial pride. But as the authors correctly point out, the promise of the “separate city” ultimately foundered on the “structural divide between an empowered black middle class and the larger working class and disadvantaged who were not able to transform black power into public policy successes” (14). As the end of the 20th century draws near, it is painfully clear that in the “separate cities” of the modern South—where unemployment, crime, and disintegrating families are rife—social and economic progress lags far behind political empowerment.

Replete with tables, graphs, and detailed descriptions of community programs and organizations, this book will undoubtedly test the patience of some readers. But for those seriously interested in the evolution of African-American life in the modern urban South, a careful reading of Silver and Moeser’s ground-breaking monograph will prove well worth the effort.

University of South Florida

RAYMOND ARSENAULT

The FDR Years: On Roosevelt and His Legacy. By William E. Leuchtenburg. (New York: Columbia University Press, 1995. xiii, 377 pp. Preface, index, notes. \$29.50.)

In one of nine superbly written essays which comprise *The FDR Years*, William Leuchtenburg describes in rich detail the 1936 presidential campaign, the election returns, and the resulting political, policy, and program implications. Leuchtenburg describes how, with the leadership of FDR, American voters steadily regained confidence in government, the economy, and themselves and overwhelmingly reelected him to a second term while crushing the Republican challenge, as well as other opposing political viewpoints. In particular, the author emphasizes that FDR and the voters in 1936 demolished those political philosophies which were

rooted in the earlier conventional and highly restrictive view of the role of the Federal Government with regard to the social and economic well-being of the American public.

Some 60 years have elapsed since the 1936 elections and in 1996 an increasingly troubled and ambivalent American public may have an unusually well-defined opportunity to reconsider the role and responsibility of the federal government in the many substantive program areas which were spawned directly, or indirectly, by FDR's New Deal. Since the voting public rejected an incumbent Republican president in 1992, and followed that in 1994 by sharply ending Democratic Party control of both the Senate and the House of Representatives, the American voting public can expect a lengthy and particularly contentious 1996 political season. However, more so than ever before in this age of media based "sound bite" campaigning, the voting public cannot count on the candidates alone to elucidate the issues. Wise, and at least in this one instance, truly enjoyable preparation for the voter in 1996 would begin with a careful reading of *The FDR Years*.

The nine essays of *The FDR Years* pertain primarily to the New Deal period of 1932-1938 and were written by the author over a period of some 36 years (1952-1988), with periodic updating and augmentation to reflect the additional insights of other recognized New Deal scholars and commentators. The essays were originally prepared as papers for presentation at conferences, as articles for publication in scholarly journals, one as a chapter in a previous book by the author, or as contributions to 'multiauthor' volumes on the Presidency. The selection and organization of the essays in *The FDR Years* is brilliant. Each essay is captivating; to the extent that some degree of redundancy between essays occasionally and understandably exists, it serves to offer additional insight and emphasis to important events or achievements.

Seven of the essays vividly describe the economic and social crisis confronting the American public in 1932, the continuing willingness of FDR to discard conventional views and to adapt to new realities, the political opposition, the new organizational entities and program concepts of a rapidly expanding federal establishment, and the personality conflicts between cabinet officers. Also described is the early onset of presidential difficulties with what has been elsewhere termed "The Iron Triangle" (the powerful combination of congressional committees, executive branch bureaus and agencies under the jurisdiction of a particular committee, and interest groups with

compatible goals, and a willingness to undertake concerted coordinated actions, often at odds with any administration).

The two concluding essays assess the achievements of the New Deal and its impact on American culture. Forthrightly acknowledging that the New Deal did not improve, or only marginally impacted, some socioeconomic areas, Leuchtenburg is impressively convincing in writing of significant New Deal achievements in securities regulation, banking, infrastructure development, agriculture, home building and financing, unemployment insurance, old-age security, aid for dependent children, resource conservation, and numerous other areas which improved living conditions for the American public. Indeed, one cannot read *The FDR Years* without realizing that many millions of Americans (or their parents), who are now comfortably situated and clamoring for an end to such programs, were among the major beneficiaries of New Deal programs, or other programs inspired by the New Deal.

Whether 1996 will be a year in which progress is made in resolving such long-standing issues as the proper role of the federal government in such areas as welfare, medical care for the aged and the disadvantaged, education, employment, financial support for essential services such as conservation and transportation, and other compensatory spending for social and economic purposes, remains to be seen. However, thanks to William E. Leuchtenburg's *The FDR Years*, we are afforded an unusually excellent account of the reasoning underlying the past involvement of the federal government in these crucially important areas.

Melbourne, FL

ED DOLAN

Weapons for Victory: The Hiroshima Decision Fifty Years Later. By Robert James Maddox. (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1995. 215 pp. Introduction, notes, selected bibliography, index. \$19.95 hardcover.)

The dropping of an atomic bomb on Japan on August 6, 1945 by order of President Harry Truman was designed to end the war and save American lives. The hope was that this weapon would make the planned invasion of Japan unnecessary. Although Japan did not instantly surrender— it took a second bomb plus a declaration of war by the Soviet Union before this took place— there is no

doubt that it was successful. The war did stop, no invasion was necessary, many lives were saved, but the controversy had just begun.

There were differences of opinion in 1945 among high civilian and military officials as to how, when, and where the bomb should be used, but almost no one opposed its use. There were no arguments back and forth about the morality or immorality of using the weapon, whether it was a military necessity or not, what impact it would have on the Soviet Union, certainly none that reached the president. But, when some of these men wrote their memoirs they also began to rewrite history, and when New Left historians such as Gar Alperovitz presented their revised versions of the event during the 1960s, the assertion was made that the bombs were not used to defeat Japan but to intimidate the Soviet Union, that the American people had been the victim of a giant conspiracy.

In this cogent, trenchant book, Robert Maddox uses all of his considerable skills to destroy this revisionist view. His research is exhaustive, his logic is admirable, and his account is utterly convincing. On the negative side, one is left with the feeling that Maddox has engaged in overkill, that his final chapter "A Retrospect" was not truly necessary, that he has been too eager to demolish all aspects of the revisionist viewpoint.

For example, all scholars agree that of the highest military officers only Dwight Eisenhower opposed dropping the bomb. But, when Ike later asserted that he had made his views known to both Truman and Secretary of War Henry Stimson, the unanimity among scholars came to an end. Maddox spends a lot of time, far too much in the eyes of this reviewer, in proving that Ike was mistaken in his later claims.

From the 1960s on, it appears that many Americans, from Oliver Stone to revisionist historians, have been willing to believe in any number of conspiracy theories about our postwar past. They would do well to remember the old military maxim, "Never suspect conspiracy when simple incompetence will suffice." Faced with this intransigence in our society and in the halls of academe, perhaps this type of overkill is mandatory. At any rate, for those who prefer to be historically accurate rather than just politically correct, this is a good overview of how the decision was made to enter the atomic age. It is thorough, readable, accurate, and most welcome.

University of Florida

ARCH FREDERIC BLAKEY

Good-bye, Machiavelli: Government and American Life. By Bernard W. Wishy. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1995, xi, 364 pp. Preface, bibliography,. index. \$34.95.)

Most observers of society and politics in the United States since World War II have recognized the federal government's increasing involvement in the daily life of the republic. The extent of that involvement and its implications for both citizens and the future of republican governance in this country have sparked much political commentary, not to mention electoral posturing.

Bernard Wishy has sought to develop a reasoned, historical perspective on the subject by surveying governmental function and service from the colonial era to the 1990s. His product is a solid creation, enriched with shrewd insights and engaging presentations of evidence.

Wishy argues that government has always exercised its power in the ordinary life of this country. Sponsorship of private enterprise, for example, has been as much a part of the role of the central government as its service to defend the nation, facilitate international trade, or guarantee the rights of citizens. The regulatory function of government has been equally apparent.

But this latter function has usually received a less than appreciative nod from the general population. Wishy locates sources of this attitude in the early development of the British North American colonies. Colonists able to do so pursued London's sponsorship of their business and commercial activities even while they deplored the regulatory power imposed by imperial officials. The central government's authority could be viewed as either beneficent or tyrannical, depending upon how its actions affected one's particular interests. According to Wishy, such a pattern of selective approval of governmental intervention would become commonplace in the political discourse of the United States.

Government in the new nation proved itself well capable of providing sponsorship. Under the Philadelphia Constitution, the central government manipulated fiscal policy to solicit the loyalty of long-term debt holders, thereby strengthening its power. The same government underwrote economic development with charters, bounties, and contracts, among other instruments.

Even that arch foe of governmental intrusion, President Thomas Jefferson could not resist acting on behalf of the "public interest." He approved the use of surplus receipts to build canals

and turnpikes, and to assist education. He also earmarked federal dollars to purchase the Louisiana Territory.

Despite the “waxing and waning” of intervention in the 1820s and 1830, by mid-19th century, what Wishy sees as a continuous “pileup” of governmental functions had already been set in motion. In the 1850s “pileup” included subsidies for steamship companies, telegraph lines and cod fisheries, underwriting land surveys, and support for education and agricultural research. The national emergency imposed by the Civil War expanded a formidable, existing range of activity.

The phenomenal growth of the nation between 1865 and 1912 spurred a simultaneous burst of governmental “pileup” at the federal, as well as the state and local, levels. By 1900, business and industrial expansion prompted another surge of regulation. Thus, the implicit dilemma raised, though not solved, was that state power must be enhanced to strengthen individual freedom and economic opportunity.

Wishy notes that in response to severe economic dislocation in the 1930s the flurry of New Deal programs fashioned in Washington established a permanent foundation for the interest-based politics so noticeable today. Ever larger numbers of citizens came to view the federal government as a basic provider, as a legitimate source of support—cash, jobs, health care—to which they were entitled.

Government has become a broker, operating on behalf of multiple interest groups which compete for public largess. Each need, real or perceived, raised for consideration is promulgated as a “public interest,” usually without examination of legitimacy or worth.

An obvious conclusion derived from this work is that political life in the modern United States has lacked a mode of discourse that embraces reality. Responsible Republicans, Democrats and others must set themselves to the work of crafting campaigns that honestly address the tradition of governmental intervention. The next, and surely more challenging duty, will be to begin a fair evaluation of the merits of the “pileup” already at hand.

Florida Farm Bureau Federation, Gainesville GEORGE B. CRAWFORD

BOOK NOTES

A Journey Through Time: A Pictorial History of South Dade by Paul S. George, a historian well-known to the readers of the *Quarterly*, has just been published by the Donning Company of Virginia Beach, Virginia. This panoramic narrative, illustrated by 250 photographs and maps, is the first comprehensive treatment of a vast agricultural area which has long been vital to the economy of Dade County and the state of Florida.

Dr. George takes the reader through some 10,000 years of local history beginning with some of the earliest inhabitants of the region. He includes the first white settlers who were drawn to the coastal ridge and its adjacent hammock land where game abounded. He tells also of the settlers of a string of small communities that arose along the FEC Railway in the late 19th and early 20th centuries as they endured the hordes of insects, the isolation, and the subpar farming conditions to forge homes in the wilderness.

In the early decades of the 20th century the area became the winter produce capital of the nation and, eventually, host to Dade County's fastest growing communities. Hurricane Andrew's destructive path through South Dade was only the latest, and most severe, example of a lengthy chain of natural disasters which the region has endured. Led by Homestead and Kendall, the region is rebuilding in the wake of Andrew while it continues to redefine itself.

A Journey Through Time is a fascinating story. It can be read quickly, or it can be savored a little at a time with equal enjoyment and benefit. It may be ordered from the Florida Pioneer Museum, 826 North Krome Avenue, Florida City, FL 33034. The price is \$37 plus \$5 for postage and handling.

Bill Wisser's *South Beach: America's Riviera, Miami Beach, Florida* was released in late 1995 by Arcade Publishers. Beautifully illustrated by numerous color photographs, the book is a "compilation of images and words depicting the seductive and stylish Tropical Deco world of South Beach, Florida." It features the flamboyant architecture of the Art Deco neighborhood at the tip of Miami Beach and the successful fight to save it from the wrecking ball. It addi-

tionally takes the reader inside the exotic and sometimes outrageous art, fashion, and bohemian scenes that have made this historic neighborhood one of the hippest and most exciting cities in the world today.

South Beach may be ordered from Arcade Publishers, 141 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10010, or by FAX at 212-353-8148. The price is \$21.95.

Fisherfolk of Charlotte Harbor, Florida was written by Robert F. Edic and published by the Institute of Archaeology and Paleoenvironmental Studies at the University of Florida with the assistance of the Bureau of Historic Preservation, Division of Historical Resources, Florida Department of State. It is a comprehensive account of a way of life, the people who lived it, the abundant fisheries which sustained it, the natural and manmade problems they encountered, and the ways the fishery resources of the area have been altered by the modern world. In his preparation for the book, Robert Edic spent more than 10 years collecting oral histories of the fisherfolk. His work is both a history of the people of a certain place and a warning that the vanishing traditional ways heralds more profound and far-reaching changes to our natural world.

Echoes of Yesterday by Louise Ball Caccamise traces the history of DeLand, Florida's public library for 83 years from its simple beginning in 1912 to its present home in 1995 in a \$2,000,000 building. The story begins at the time when Henry DeLand, founder of the town, had been deceased just four years and his daughter, Helen, was still a frequent visitor. A blacksmith shop and an ice house were important businesses in the town. Stetson University set the tone for cultural development and plans for a library were met with enthusiasm.

Echoes of Yesterday chronicles events, but also commemorates librarians, library boards, Friends of the Library, and benefactors. The individual biographies of more than 300 people are included. Fully documented and indexed, the book includes more than 70 photographs and an appendix of important documents. Written by a retired librarian, this hard cover book was published by Luthers and printed at E. O. Painter Printing Co. It is available from the author at P. O. Box 241, DeLand, FL 32721-0241. The price is \$27.50 plus tax.

Pineapple Press has just released *Tellable Cracker Tales*, a collection of tall tales, nonsense stories, modern fables, and stories from Florida history by Annette J. Bruce of Eustis, Florida. Annette Bruce grew up in a large family where daily stories were the norm. She co-founded The Florida Storytellers Guild, The Florida Storytelling Camp, and The Cracker Storytelling Festival. She has received awards from the Florida House of Representatives and the Department of State. Her *Tellable Cracker Tales* is filled with colorful characters living their lives amid the rich landscapes of old Florida. Each story is accompanied by tips for telling, suggested audience, and approximate telling time to make it easy to start your own storytelling tradition. The book is published in the belief that these stories are as much fun to read as they are to tell or hear.

Tellable Cracker Tales is available in paperback for \$8.95 and in hardcover for \$14.95. It can be found in bookstores or may be ordered directly from the publisher by calling 1-800-PINEAPL (746-3275).

Kathryn E. Holland Braund's *Deerskins and Duffels: Creek Indian Trade with Anglo-America, 1685-1815* was originally published by the University of Nebraska Press in 1993 and was reviewed in Volume LXXII, No. 4 (April 1994) of the *Quarterly* by John R. Finger. It is now available in paperback from the same press. The price is \$15.00.

Albert E. Cowdrey's *This Land, This South: An Environmental History*, originally published by the University Press of Kentucky in 1983, was reviewed in Volume LXIII, No. 1 (July 1984) of the *Quarterly*. A revised edition of this important work has just been released by the same press. It is available in cloth cover for \$32.95 and paperback for \$14.95.

A History of Ten Baptist Churches of Which the Author Has Been Alternately a Member was first published in the 1820s by John Taylor, a pioneer Baptist farmer-preacher. It has long been recognized as an indispensable source for first-hand information about the religious life of the early American frontier. In the book Taylor recounted the experiences of Baptists in Virginia who championed the cause of liberty. He then chronicled the movement of many of those Baptists to the wilderness of central and northern Kentucky where their church communities both struggled and flourished. *Baptists*

on the American Frontier is a revision of Taylor's book and the first-ever annotated one. It features a logical division of Taylor's sentences and paragraphs, a full bibliography of relevant historical works, tables outlining frontier religious rhetoric, and an extensive system of annotation that clarifies and corrects Taylor's accounts. *Baptists on the American Frontier* edited and introduced by Chester Raymond Young, is the annotated third edition of Taylor's original work. It has just been published by Mercer University Press, 6316 Peake Road, Macon, Georgia 31210-39601. Fax 912-752-2264. The price is \$39.95.